

Plumas-Sierra Noxious WEEDS Management Group

“We Eradicate Exotic and Detrimental Species”

Notes of September 18th, 2002 Meeting

In attendance:

Allan Abrams, Plumas-Sierra Cattlemen – S.V.R.C.D., (530) 994-3173
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Karl called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. at the Plumas-Sierra Department of Agriculture's Boardroom, 208 Fairgrounds Road, Quincy, California. Introductions of those in attendance followed. The meeting notes of July 17th, 2002 were approved with no corrections or additions.

AB1168/SB1740 Project Updates

YST Control on Private Lands Cooperative Project

Celeste reported on the data collection she has gathered, participants feel that spraying is working especially those whom are in their second year of the project. Celeste recommends that in the coming years of the project it is important that we promote early control, which results in a majority of the control. There were only 2 of 22 participants who didn't pick up their transline. The group joined in discussion on various issues such as Sierra Valley's involvement and weed ratings.

Perennial Pepperweed on Private Lands Cooperative Project

Allan requested more outreach next year and wants plenty of notice possibly early March of 2003.

Reports/Plans

Karl reported to the group on various reports and activities. Discussion on bio-control for puncturevine, the problem with the weevil, which is the primary agent, is that it doesn't tolerate cold weather. Duane stated that Caltrans could donate chemical for weed control since they have reduced their herbicide usage. Robert reported on a project at Bidwell Park that worked well, where they had inmates doing blackberry removal. Karl reported that the high pressure spray rig that was given to the department last year is now functional and is a welcome asset.

Karl reported that the Tree of Heaven species might be possibly moving in from Yuba towards Downieville. He will research this further and report back to the group.

Roadside

Linda reported that roadside spraying is starting to wind down and that she is finding more and more perennial pepperweed, puncturevine, and medusahead on A-23. She also reported that yellow starthistle in higher elevations is growing well. Areas that are in direct sunlight are pretty much browning out. Scotch broom spraying is coming up soon. The group joined in discussion regarding Scotch broom in Sierra County and the possibility of an inmate crew helping with the removal.

WWF

Karl reported on the Weed Free Forage program and stated that identification is a problem. Twine is very costly and they are currently looking at other options. A new CACASA sub-committee will be meeting on October 2nd, 2002 to work on some of the WWF issues. April is scheduled as the closure date. Rob inquired if there would be fees charged for WWF inspections and certification. Karl said that it depended on the individual counties.

2002 Strategic Plan

This agenda item was moved to the next meeting.

PNF Noxious Weed Treatment Proposed Action

Chris reported the goal is to have the proposed action out by October. On track at this time, looking at adaptive ways to control other than herbicides. Jim inquired whether it is being kept open for new species, Chris stated that they would have to decide what the risk would be for an individual weed or a decision list or management Strategy. Ed inquired if there could be a template for general use, Chris stated that they could try for that type of process.

Noxious Weed Brochures

Celeste reported that the Yellow starthistle, Scotch broom, and Medusahead brochures are going to the printer and will be out soon. Also, in process is the creation of a tall whitetop and spotted knapweed brochure.

County Fair Booth

Linda reported that the booth was in a good location with lots of interest by kids which drew in their parents. Parents asked a lot of questions regarding yellow starthistle and tall whitetop and inquired about workshops, and chemical usage, etc. The noxious weed tattoo's and whiz rings were a big hit. It was recommended that next year there be more props for the booth. One suggestion was having a small spray rig at the booth.

Site Reported

Robert reported a large site of rush skeltonweed in Forbestown towards Feather Falls at the Enterprise Bridge.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 14th, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. It will be held at the *Plumas-Sierra Department of Agriculture Conference Room*, 208 Fairgrounds Road, in Quincy, California. Agenda items may be submitted in advance or on the day of the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned.

Meeting notes submitted by Debbie Rexroth, Plumas-Sierra Counties Department of Agriculture